



Application for certificate of exemption

Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986

What is movable cultural heritage

Australia's movable cultural heritage is protected by legislation which controls the export of important cultural heritage objects, so that our irreplaceable heritage is not lost to the nation forever.

Not all cultural heritage objects can be exported. Objects subject to export control are of exceptional importance in the development of Australian society and culture.

Two categories of material are controlled by the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986* (the PMCH Act) and include: Class A objects and Class B objects.

Class A objects

Include Victoria Cross medals awarded to Australian servicemen as listed at Part V11A of the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Amendments Regulations 1998* and the following Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander objects:

- Bark and log coffins
- Human remains
- Rock art
- Dendroglyphs (carved trees)
- Sacred and secret ritual objects.

Class A objects cannot be exported unless they are already located outside Australia and a Certificate of Exemption to import and later export them is obtained.

Class B objects

Include objects of exceptional cultural significance to Australia need a permit to be exported or a *Certificate of Exemption* to be imported and re-exported. There are nine categories in the *National Cultural Heritage Control List*, including:

- Archaeology
- Documentary Heritage
- Numismatics (coins)
- Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage
- Natural Science
- Fine or Decorative Arts
- Applied Science or Technology
- Historical Significance
- Philately (stamps).

How to apply for a certificate of exemption

This form covers material already outside Australia. Fill it in if you wish to bring a protected Australian cultural heritage object into Australia temporarily, and later take it back overseas. Objects granted a Certificate of Exemption will be exempt from the export controls under the PMCH Act and can be imported and re-exported.

If you wish to export an object of cultural heritage significance which is still within Australia, you should fill in the Application for a Permit to Export Cultural Heritage Objects.

If you wish to apply for a change to the conditions on a Permit or Certificate of Exemption (for example to extend the time limit) you should fill in the application form on the back of the issued Permit or on the back of the issued Certificate of Exemption.

Copies of the PMCH Act and the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Regulations* can be downloaded from the [Department's website at www.arts.gov.au/movable](http://www.arts.gov.au/movable).

Please note that it is not necessary to answer every question in the form. If you do not have specific details, only include the information you have available, no matter how approximate (for example probable dates of return of objects going overseas). If there is insufficient information to process the application the Department will contact you.

More information

If you need more information, please contact:

Cultural Property Section
Department of Communications and the Arts
Email: movable.heritage@arts.gov.au
Freecall: 1800 819 461
Web: www.arts.gov.au/movable

Important notes

- If you wish to import an identified collection of objects, or more than one example of a single type of object, or an exhibition, you only need to fill in one form. You must then specify the contents of the collection on a sheet to be attached to this form. It is possible that the Minister may grant a certificate of exemption for only some of these objects and refuse a permit for others.
- Please attach a photograph of the actual object(s) [see instructions under Description of Object(s)].
- If the space provided in the boxes is too small, please attach a separate sheet.
- If you are completing this form by hand, please print clearly in black ink.

This form has been produced in accordance with Sub-section 10(2) of the
Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986

1. Applicant details

Provide the details of the person who is applying for the certificate of exemption

Surname:

First name:

Title:

Institution/organisation:

Position:

Postal address:

Country:

Phone:

Mobile:

Fax:

Email:

2. Australian contact

Provide the details of a person or organisation we can contact in Australia if we need to know more about the object(s).

Surname:

First name:

Title:

Institution/organisation:

Position:

Postal address:

Country:

Phone:

Mobile:

Fax:

Email:

3. Country object to be imported from

Note: You should check whether the object(s) needs export authorisation from that country or the country of origin. Objects which enter Australia without the requisite export approval are liable to be declared unlawful imports

From which country is the object(s) to be imported into Australia:

4. Object description

Please complete this page for each object you wish to export. You may photocopy the page or ask the Department for additional copies. In the case of very large collections, such as stamps or recent archaeological finds, complete one page for the entire collection and attach a separate list identifying each particularly significant item and its value.

Note: If needed, a Department representative or an Expert Examiner registered under the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986* may ask for additional information.

Description of the object—what is it:

Size of the object:

Age of the object:

When and where the object was made or found:

Details of the person who made or found the object:

Details about when the object was exported from Australia:

Current market value of the object (\$A, \$US, DM, Yen etc):

Detail of any publication this object has been listed or photographed:

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Distinguishing marks on the object—such as permanently fixed accession number, serial number or engine number, indelible manufacturer’s name, mark or model, engraved name, signature, visible damage and/or repair:

Other information including its rarity or importance, if known:

5. Photograph requirements

For single objects a photograph is required. A black-and-white or colour photographic print is sufficient. A snapshot is acceptable provided that the object is clearly visible and identifiable. A clear photocopy of a photograph of the object(s) published in a book or catalogue may be adequate. Please note that for natural science objects, a photo of the actual specimen or in the case of a collection, a representative sample must be included

For collections, one photographic print of the most rare or significant examples is sufficient. Large collections may be inspected.

6. Reason for importing object

Please check the relevant box (double click if completing this form electronically) and give details in the space below.

- Temporary exhibition
 - Research
 - Repair, restoration or conservation
 - Appraisal or valuation
 - Owner temporarily living in Australia
 - Other
-

Please provide details:

Arrival and return overseas

When is the object(s) expected to arrive in Australia? Provide details in month/year:

When is the object(s) expected to return overseas? Provide details in month/year:

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Applicant statement

It is important for you to sign and date this form below.

Note: It is an offence under Chapter 2 of the Commonwealth *Criminal Code* to knowingly make a false statement or provide a false document.

Statement

I declare that all information given in this application is correct. I understand that, if a Certificate of Exemption to import and re-export is granted, the certificate shall only be used for the import and subsequent export of the object(s) described on this application and its attachments during the time period shown on this application.

Signature:

Date signed:

Send form

Please forward the completed and signed form to:

Cultural Property Section
Department of Communications and the Arts
Email: movable.heritage@arts.gov.au
Freecall: 1800 819 461
Web: www.arts.gov.au/movable

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